

What is claimed:

1. A domain management system comprising a front-end domain manager adapted for causing display of an interface on an operator terminal of a screen requesting operator input of information related to a domain, the front-end domain manager adapted for communicating to a back-end domain manager over a communication link, the front-end domain manager receiving an information change message from the operator terminal communicating domain information to be changed by the domain manager, the front-end domain manager extracting information from the information change message and generating a text string command message to be sent to the back-end domain manager.

2. The domain management system of claim 1, wherein the information extracted from the information change message is combined with context information to generate the text string command message.

3. The domain management system of claim 1, wherein the front-end domain manager receives response messages from the back-end domain manager formatted as text strings.

4. The domain management system of claim 1, wherein fields within the text string command message are separated by a special character.

5. The domain management system of claim 3, wherein fields within the text string of the response message are separated by a special character.

12. The domain management system of claim 7, wherein the information change means resides on a server coupled to a second server capable of directly accessing a shared registry system.

5 13. The domain management system of claim 12, wherein the information change request is passed through the second server and to the shared registry system.

14. The domain management system of claim 6, wherein the authoritative database is a shared registry system.

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15. A domain management system, comprising:

an authentication interface generator that generates a message that, when received by an operator terminal, at least in part causes display on the operator terminal of a request for authentication from a party seeking access to the domain management system;

15 a domain identification interface generator that generates a message that, when received by the operator terminal, at least in part causes display on the operator terminal of a request for input from an operator seeking access to the domain management system of a domain name to be an active domain name;

20 a message processing section receiving an information change message from the operator terminal communicating domain information to be changed, extracting information from the information change message and generating a text string command message;

a communication section sending the command message over a network communication link to an associated domain manager; and

25 a return message interpreter receiving from the associated domain manager a return message including an indication of a success or failure of a command or function communicated to the associated domain manager from the command message generator.

30 16. The domain management system of claim 15, further comprising a diagnostic utility adapted to receive at least one diagnostic request about the active domain name and to generate a command message requesting execution of a corresponding diagnostic utility.

17. The domain management system of claim 16, wherein the diagnostic utility accesses a shared registry system when executed.

18. The domain management system of claim 15, wherein the information
5 extracted from the information change message is combined with context information to generate the text string command message.

19. The domain management system of claim 15, wherein the front-end domain
10 manager receives a response message from the back-end domain manager formatted as a text string.

20. The domain management system of claim 18, wherein fields within the text string command message are separated by a special character.

15 21. The domain management system of claim 19, wherein fields within the response message are separated by a special character.